

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06

TRSE-00 L-03 H-01 /072 W

-----131416Z 048922 /53

R 131345Z JUN 77

FM AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0842

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

CONFIDENTIAL ALEXANDRIA 0479

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, PFOR, XF

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PAGE 02 ALEXAN 00479 131412Z

SUBJECT: ARAB BOYCOTT MEETING IN ALEXANDRIA

REF: ALEXANDRIA 0472

1. IN UNEXPECTED MID-CONFERENCE REVELATIONS BY ARAB BOYCOTT OF
ISRAEL COMMISSIONER GENERAL MAHGOUB, PRESS HAS LEARNED IN LAST
FEW DAYS THAT MAHGOUB TOLD CONFERENCE BUSINESS CONCERNS IN SEVERAL

WESTERN COUNTRIES AND JAPAN HAVE BEEN INFORMING THE BOYCOTT OFFICE OF ALLEGED DEALINGS WITH ISRAEL BY AMERICAN FIRMS IN ORDER TO GET THEM BLACKLISTED AND OUT OF COMPETITION FOR SLAES OR CONTRACTS. MAHGOUB WOULD NOT IDENTIFY FIRMS INVOLVED (INCLUDING BRITISH, FRENCH AND WEST GERMAN), BUT WAS QUOTED AS SAYING "THEY ARE NATURALLY INTERESTED INGETTING AMERICANS BLACKLISTED IN ORDER TO INHERIT THE VAST MARKETS OF THE ARAB WORLD".

2. MAHGOUB WAS SAID TO HAVE BEEN DISCUSSING US ANTI-BOYCOTT LEGISLATION. HE EMPHASIZED AGAIN ARABS WOULD HAVE NO PROBLEM REPLACING US SUPPLIERS AND THAT US "HAS EVERYTHING TO LOSE AND NOTHING TO GAIN" FROM SUCH LAWS. COMMENT: STORY THAT COMPETITORS ARE SQUEALING ON US COMPANIES TRADING WITH ISRAEL MAY WELL BE ONLY PART OF MAHGOUB PROPAGANDA EFFORT AGAINST ANTI-BOYCOTT FORCES.

3. ABOUT NINETY WESTERN FIRMS ARE SAID TO BE ASKING REMOVAL FROM BOYCOTT LIST, INCLUDING VOLKSWAGEN AND BARCLAY'S BANK. ONLY NAME NOW SAID TO HAVE GONE ONTO BLACKLIST IS MASONIC ORDER WHICH, MAHGOUB SAID, "HELD TWO CONFERNECES IN ISRAEL LAST YEAR." AT SAME TIME, ROTARY INTERNATIONAL ESCAPED LISTING, SINCE "INVESTIGATIONS HAVE PROVED THAT THE CLUB CONDEMNS ZIONISM AND UPHOLDS PEACE BASED ON JUSTICE IN THE MIDDLE EAST."

4. HOW THESE DECISIONS WEAKEN THE ISRAELI WAR EFFORT AND STRENGTHENS THE ARAB CAUSE IS DIFFICULT TO SEE.
CHASE

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